

VZCZCXRO6302  
RR RUEH DU RUEHJO RUEHMR  
DE RUEHSB #0210 0540957  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 230957Z FEB 06  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9640  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1108  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1114  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0565  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 3510  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0940  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1568  
RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUFGNOA/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0547  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1323  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS HARARE 000210

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. NEULING  
NSC FOR DNSA ABRAMS, SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR C. COURVILLE  
USDOC FOR BECKY ERKUL  
TREASURY FOR J. RALYEA. B. CUSHMAN  
PASS USTR FOR FLORIZELLE LISER  
STATE PASS USAID FOR MARJORIE COPSON, ERIC LOKEN  
INTERIOR PASS USGS FOR LINDA C. GUNDERSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [TPHY](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE SHAKEN BUT NOT STIRRED IN MOZAMBIQUE  
EARTHQUAKE

11. (U) According to the United States Geological Survey, an earthquake registering 7.5 on the Richter Scale hit 140 miles southwest of Beira, Mozambique at 12:19 AM Central Africa Time (CAT) on 23 February 2006. The epicenter was at Espungabera, a small town right on Zimbabwe's eastern border with Mozambique. The earthquake was followed by two aftershocks in the same area at 3:23 AM CAT (registering 5.4 on the Richter Scale) and at 4:22 AM CAT (registering 5.3 on the Richter Scale). Residents throughout Zimbabwe felt the original tremor while only residents near the Mozambique border felt the aftershocks.

12. (U) Residents of Harare, Mutare, and other Zimbabwean cities poured into the streets as they felt and heard buildings rattle and shake. Thus far, according to official GOZ press, there have been no reports of injuries or damage to property. Mr. Munyaradzi Mukandi, a geologist at the Zimbabwe Geological Survey Department, told EmbStaff that they had received no reports of injuries or property damage. In Mutare, a town on the border with Mozambique, suspended Mayor M.T. Kagurabadza told PolOff on February 23 that he had not heard or seen any injuries or property damage. Manicaland Publicity Association Director Fadzi Mugwagwa told PolOff on February 23 that she had heard no reports of injuries but had one unconfirmed report of cracks in the foundation of one building. She was still to identify the building and to confirm the extent of damage, if any.

13. (U) The earthquake was a surprise for Zimbabweans as southern Africa is not traditionally known as earthquake territory. However, the unexpected event is the talk of the town today, providing a distraction for residents from the

country,s political and economic crises.  
DELL